

1. An alignment processing mechanism comprising:

a conveying mechanism for conveying a substrate to be processed,

an alignment mechanism for aligning the substrate conveyed by the conveying mechanism to a predetermined direction by causing the substrate to rotate, and

a buffer mechanism for relaying the substrate from the conveying mechanism to the alignment mechanism,

wherein the buffer mechanism is adapted to temporarily hold the substrate conveyed by the conveying mechanism, and to pass the temporarily holding substrate to the alignment mechanism by changing a relative position of the substrate to the alignment mechanism based on a state of the alignment mechanism, in such a manner that a center of the substrate is located on a rotational axis of the alignment mechanism.

1. (amended) An alignment processing mechanism comprising[;]:

a conveying mechanism for conveying a substrate to be processed,

an alignment mechanism for aligning the substrate conveyed by the conveying mechanism to a predetermined direction by causing the substrate to rotate, and

a buffer mechanism for relaying the substrate from the conveying mechanism to the alignment mechanism[.],

wherein the buffer mechanism is adapted to temporarily hold the substrate conveyed by the conveying mechanism, and to pass the temporarily holding substrate to the alignment mechanism by changing a relative position of the substrate to the alignment mechanism based on a state of the alignment mechanism, in such a manner that a center of the substrate is located on a rotational axis of the alignment mechanism.